

# VALET JONES ADDS TO HIS AWFUL MURDER CONFESSION; TELS HOW HE AGREED WITH PATRICK TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

Patrick Gave His Co-Conspirator a Penknife with Which Jones Gashed His Throat—Lawyer Said He Would Commit Suicide, Too.

tion of it was the truth as I have told it here.

Mr. Moore objected to this and moved to strike it out. The judge interposed and told him to tell the best he could recollect.

"I couldn't do that," said Jones. "I told him of my movements before Rice's death."

Lawyer Moore stood within six feet of Jones when he questioned him. Jones answered questions put to him in a snappy, harsh voice. He lowered and raised his eyelids in a peculiar manner, and his whole attitude was different from that he maintained on direct examination.

Mr. Moore tried hard to get Jones to tell what occurred. The witness said he could not recollect. A large part of it was made up.

Assistant District Attorney Osborne objected to the cross-examination.

"As well as I can remember I told McClusky," began Jones then.

"I object," said Mr. Moore. "I want him to tell what occurred. We have the right to know what he has said, and it is for the court to decide whether it is right."

"Mr. McClusky asked me about Rice's death," said Jones. "I told him Patrick came to the house in answer to an advertisement and Rice engaged him, and agreed to make the will."

"Did you tell him the symptoms of Rice?"

"I don't remember. I am under the impression I did. I told him Rice was weak for ten days before his death."

"Can you swear you told him Rice was weak the Sunday before?"

"My best recollection is that I did."

"Did you tell Capt. McClusky Patrick was at the house Sunday?"

"My best recollection is I told him Patrick had not been there for ten days."

"Did you tell him about the checks?"

"My best recollection is I told him about them."

"Can't you swear you did?"

"No, sir, I can't."

"Did you tell him you told Patrick on Saturday to wait at his house for you that you had valuable papers for him?"

"I don't recollect. I may have done so."

"Wasn't your message to Patrick received by Mrs. Francis?"

"I am sure she did not. I never met her more than half-a-dozen times."

"What hour was it you sent the message?"

"Between the hours of 8 and 9."

"Did you say anything about the four checks?"

"I don't remember. But I don't believe I did."

"Who met you at the door?"

"I don't remember."

"Don't you remember it was a lady?"

"I don't remember."

Through a singular coincidence Patrick and Jones were dressed almost alike. Each wore a black diagonal cut-away coat, with vest and trousers to match.

Each had on a white shirt and

straight standing collar, rather high, but Jones wore a black silk four-hand scarf brightened with violet satin stripes. Jones wore a watch chain and locket, but no cuff links. He had heavy gold links when arrested.

Jones's teeth, which he showed continually, are white and regular. They are long and sharp and lightened the animal effect so characteristic of his face when on the defensive.

As Mr. Moore put question after question to Jones in a cold, businesslike way, the valet seemed to realize that he was to be made to appear as the chief conspirator, the forger and the murderer of Rice.

**He Begins to Get Afraid.**

He grew nervous and intensely alert for details. His candor was gone.

"When you called and Patrick received you why didn't you go to his room?"

"I don't know why he took me there."

"Mr. Patrick didn't take you to the back parlor Saturday, did he?"

"No, sir."

"Did you tell Capt. McClusky you were there on Saturday morning?"

"I don't know. I can't say positively. I can't tell what I told McClusky."

"Did you tell McClusky you were there at 8 o'clock Sunday?"

"I can't recall."

"Don't you know you told him you were not there at all on Sunday?"

"I don't know. I think I told him I was there."

"You knew that statement might be vital to your interests?"

"I thought it might."

"And yet you made it carelessly? Is that the only conversation in this case in which your memory has failed you?"

"It is not. I only made one statement to Capt. McClusky. I have seen him several times since, but have not talked to him about the case."

**Wouldn't Tell of McClusky.**

Mr. Moore persisted in his endeavor to get the prisoner to tell him how many times he had talked with the Captain, but the inquiry brought out little of importance.

Patrick's face was a study during the cross-examination of his alleged co-conspirator. His eyes seldom, if ever, left Jones's face, and he watched every movement of the valet's hands and head.

He seemed as if expecting some act of violence on Jones's part. He sat behind Lawyer Moore, and from time to time arose and whispered suggestions and promptings into the cross-examiner's ears.

At times Jones crouched low in his chair and crossed his legs. Then he would straighten up with a quick movement and curl his thin upper lip until the fangs would be seen above his sharp white teeth.

Whenever Justice Jerome addressed him, Jones changed at once and he became deferential and polite.

Jones went on to tell of his talk in District Attorney Gardner's office later.

"Who was present in Gardner's office?"

"The sergeant and two captains."

"Any one from the District Attorney's office?"

"No, sir. Capt. Baker met me and we talked about thirty minutes."

"You had no talk on that day except with Baker?"

"No, sir."

"Who talked with you in the Tombs about the case that day?"

"Edward Rockards. He arranged for the talk with Baker."

"Who is Rockards?"

"He was a prisoner in the Tombs. I don't know where he is now."

"You are easily influenced?"

"I am, or I would not be in this trouble."

"At this time, had the examination on the forgery case been completed?"

"I think it had. We were waiting for the decision."

"Did you get a letter from Baker in reply to the letter asking for an interview?"

"No. A verbal message from Rockards."



## VALET JONES UNDER CROSS-EXAMINATION.

Lawyer R. M. Moore, of counsel for Patrick, is the man standing up, subjecting Jones to a rigorous questioning. Lawyer Patrick, the accused, under whose orders Jones says he killed Rice, is sitting down in the foreground. He is bald headed and wears glasses.

Justice Jerome asked about 8 o'clock in the evening of Oct. 28. He spent all night with Mr. Osborne.

With them were Capt. McClusky and Detective Burns. Mr. Osborne took down what he said.

**Jones's First Confession.**

This was Jones's first confession, in which he accused Patrick of murdering Mr. Rice. Jones said that he had seen Patrick in the Tombs, that he wanted to make a statement, and that he had given to Patrick a statement of the confession.

The first confession was made in the Warden's office in the Tombs. It took him seven hours to make it.

**Sent for First Confession.**

Mr. Osborne sent for the first confession made by Jones. It was written by Mr. Osborne, and he turned it over to Lawyer Moore, who asked Jones:

"I should read this statement to you do you think you could recognize it?"

"Yes, I could. I am positive I can do so," snapped Jones viciously. He was then given the statement, which he identified.

"Did you say this?" asked Mr. Moore, reading from the confession.

"To the best of my recollection, I did."

"Don't you know you did?"

Jones would not say positively, and this was the attitude he maintained while Mr. Moore continued trying to catch him napping as to the text of the confession.

Mr. Osborne wanted to put the confession in evidence.

"No," said Mr. Moore. "I object. I know what I am trying to drive at."

Justice Jerome interposed at this point to ask what he was trying to get at.

"I have the right to show," said Mr. Moore, "how many contradictory statements he has made. It is surprisingly strange that the witness can go into details with his relations with Patrick for a year and yet can't say what he told the District Attorney."

**Didn't Like to Murder.**

"Did you think it was exactly right when you chloroformed old man Rice?"

"No, I did not."

"Did you say anything about a book Patrick was to bring Rice?"

"I think I made such a statement."

"I think he, Rice, laughed then."

"Practically the only statement in this paper that you now say is true is that you received a bottle from Patrick on the Sunday of the death."

"I object," said the Court. "Mr. Moore then asked for the stenographic report of Jones's statement made to Capt. McClusky."

"We want to get as many of them together as possible," he said.

## Startling Details Added to the Story of the Rice Crime—Forgery of Bank Checks Made to Test the Value of False Signature.

VALET JONES.

The Criminal Courts Building to-day in company with Detective Curry and marked that it was "a wet day for somebody."

The lawyer had fully recovered from the nervous strain he was under when the late Mr. Rice's valet was relating the blood-chilling story of the millionaire's murder yesterday. He affected an air of satisfied dignity as he took his seat.

**Valet Jones Called Again.**

Valet Jones, still seemingly unconcerned, was again placed on the witness chair.

He resumed the story of the conspiracy, murder and fraud by telling, at Mr. Osborne's request, how Patrick had destroyed one check for \$25,000 drawn against Swenson & Sons because he thought the signature was bad. It was too heavy.

"That night," he said, "I heard from Paul, the night watchman of No. 50 Madison avenue, that a man with a heavy mustache was watching the house. I telephoned to Patrick, and he told me to be sure no one came into the house unless he or I was there."

"Just as I was going to bed the elevator boy called me and told me that four men were at the door and wanted to see me. They said they were lawyers."

At this juncture Patrick changed his seat to a chair nearer Jones, into whose face he looked with a sneer as he listened.

"No wait, not now, not yet," said Mr. Osborne, impatiently. "I only want the conversations between you and Patrick when your lawyer was present."

Lawyer House, who was the original counsel, winked mildly and looked innocent.

"Well," began Jones, "just before I tried to commit suicide, Mr. House came to the Tombs and I told him that there had been no murder committed. Patrick was present."

"Exactly," whispered Lawyer House, nodding and smiling meekly.

"What happened then?"

"Mr. House took me aside and told me in a whisper to tell Mr. House all he said he was my lawyer and to tell him all, as he was going to defend me."

"But he cautioned me not to connect him (Patrick) with the murder, as he said, 'You would do because all of Mr. Rice's property was in his hands.'"

"I told Patrick that I wouldn't tell anything unless I told all. That I did, except about the oxalic acid Patrick gave me to give to Rice."

"After that Patrick told me that Meyer and Short would not stand for the murder."

**Said He'd Commit Suicide.**

"Then I said that I would commit suicide. Patrick said that he would kill himself too. He said that he had a knife and some oxalic acid that he would use on me."

"I asked him for one blade of the knife. He refused and said he would try to get Mr. Potts to get me some oxalic acid."

"I wanted to give Mr. Potts a check on the Fifth Avenue Trust Company to pay my funeral and cremation expenses."

**Patrick Gave Him Knife.**

"Subsequently Patrick gave me a small knife, which I put in my shoe. After that I went to the District Attorney's office."

"You had seen me before you talked to Patrick about committing suicide?"

"Yes, but I hadn't told Patrick anything that passed between us."

"After I saw Mr. Osborne I went back to the Tombs and lay in bed reading until 4 o'clock. The watchman came around and then I cut myself in the throat—tried to commit suicide."

Jones illustrated how he cut himself with a knife, and how he became ill in matter-of-fact way of the attempt and failure, and then told how he became partially unconscious from the effects of a dozen quinine pills, which made him dizzy.

Patrick puckered his mouth as Jones told of the attempt at suicide, and his face grew red as if with anger. Throughout all of the recital he listened with even greater interest than he evinced yesterday.

"Ever contemplated suicide since then, Jones?" asked Mr. Osborne in a cheerful tone.

"Oh, yes," answered Jones before Lawyer Moore could get in an objection, which was sustained by Justice Jerome.

The Assistant District Attorney then went back to the last days of Mr. Rice's sufferings of the old man who, beginning life as a faro dealer in Texas, had amassed a fortune of millions, and died at the hands of his valet.

**Jones Tells of Poisoning.**

Jones told in detail all of the symptoms of poisoning shown by his late employer. How the old man thought the pains he suffered were due to eating too many bananas and eggs. It was the mercury pills that were killing him by inches.

Jones watched the old man grow weaker and weaker and counted the mercury pills each day in the bottle as they grew fewer and fewer.

He knew Rice was taking them and reported to Patrick regularly.

"The old millionaire's sufferings were weakening and terrible."

"Was it signed then?"

"Yes, I said that I didn't believe that it could be probated because the bequests to relatives were too small. Later I told Meyer, one of the wit-

nesses, the same thing, but he did not agree with me. He said he knew it could be probated."

**Meyer Dragged into Plot.**

This was the first direct testimony connecting Patrick's law clerk, Morris Meyer, with a criminal knowledge of the great crime.

The arrival of Capt. Baker, Mr. Rice's Texas lawyer, was described by Jones. Patrick and Capt. Baker had a talk while the undertaker was waiting to take the body of Mr. Rice to the crematory at Fresh Pond, L. I. They were alone, and when they came out Patrick said that they had not been able to come to any agreement about Mr. Rice's affairs.

"After that I talked with Capt. Baker about Mr. Rice's death," went on Jones. "I told Capt. Baker a story agreed upon by Patrick and I, the night of Mr. Rice's death. I described Mr. Rice's death in detail and Capt. Baker agreed to let the body be cremated."

"Dr. Curry and I went to the crematory after that and saw the body cremated."

"I did not see Patrick except for a moment or two from that time until we were arrested."

"Didn't Mr. Patrick and Mr. John R. Potts call before that?" asked Mr. Osborne.

"Oh, yes; I forgot," answered Jones. "They called and Mr. Patrick asked Mr. Potts to act as my lawyer. That was so that I could say that I declined to take the case under advice of counsel. Mr. Potts agreed."

Jones related in minute detail every movement made from the cremation to his arrest by Detective Valley, who took him to Police Headquarters, where he met Capt. McClusky.

"Did you and Patrick discuss flight at any time?"

"No, not at first. There was too much at stake. Later in the Tombs we talked of it."

"But you never tried to escape?"

"No, we didn't try to escape."

"Did you make a statement about Mr. Rice's death to Capt. McClusky?" asked Mr. Osborne.

Every ear in the court-room was quickened. It was thought that the celebrated "third degree" was to be described. Objections were raised by Patrick's lawyers, and the "third degree" was not described.

**Stopped Valet's Talking.**

Instead Jones told how he and Patrick were arraigned in court and remanded to the Tombs. The valet seemed to want to tell something and began saying, "I ought to say here and here."

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"I told Patrick all and how Mr. Rice was thinking of rebuilding some of his property in Texas which had suffered in the Galveston disaster. Patrick told me to try to persuade Mr. Rice not to rebuild, as it would take too much of the cash Mr. Rice had in banks."

"I suggested to Mr. Rice that it would be well to postpone the rebuilding of some of the old works he owned, but he said that he would rebuild the plant."

**Get Him Out of the Way.**

"PATRICK SAID THAT WE MUST GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY; that I wouldn't do. The next day—Saturday—a draft came for \$125,000 from Texas to pay for the rebuilding of the Merchants' Oil Company. The draft came due on Monday."

"PATRICK SAID THAT MR. RICE MUST BE GOTTEN RID OF BEFORE THAT DRAFT WAS PAID—before Monday."

Patrick filed a satchel in Mr. Rice's house on the night of Mr. Rice's death.

"Yes, sir."

"When did you look up Mr. Rice's bank accounts to find out how much money Mr. Rice had in the bank at the time of his death?"

"On Monday, but I always kept Patrick posted as to how much cash Mr. Rice had on hand."

Patrick snarled at this angrily. He seemed to be aroused by Jones's confidential manner in addressing Justice Jerome and Mr. Osborne.

A number of telegrams sent by Jones previous to Mr. Rice's death were then read in the former valet's hands for identification.

**Identified the Telegrams.**

Looking them over carefully, Jones said that he had sent them all.

Patrick looked at them with much interest when his lawyer, Mr. House, asked to see what they contained. They were in relation to rebuilding some old works Mr. Rice owned in Texas.

Other telegrams were identified as sent by Jones at Patrick's dictation after Mr. Rice's death.

They were to Rice's relatives and to his funeral would be held on Tuesday.

This date Patrick chose so that no one could come from Texas in time to be present or prevent the cremation of the body.